

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 714

By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Kathryn Blackwell on the celebration of her 95th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Kathryn Blackwell will celebrate her 95th birthday on January 24, 2004, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, nine and a half decades ago, this exemplary Tennessean was born to King Clark, a Georgian, and the former Carrie Nelson, a Cherokee; the youngest child of the couple was named Vashti after a Biblical queen; and

WHEREAS, following extensive travel, Vashti chose Knoxville as her home in 1924; she changed her name to Kathryn and gave birth to two cherished children, the late Eula Mae Mills and William Mills; and

WHEREAS, Kathryn married Mr. Ellis Blackwell of Elberton, Georgia, and they lived together in Knoxville until his untimely death in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blackwell's son, William, learned a tremendous set of values from his mother, and his life is a testament to the quality of his upbringing; and

WHEREAS, William served his country as a member of the United States Navy and, after being honorably discharged, answered a second calling as an ordained minister in the Apostolic faith; his fruitful life has produced fifteen grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren for Mrs. Blackwell; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Knoxville community, Mrs. Blackwell served with acumen and alacrity during her professional life, earning the respect of her peers at

Highland's Grill and the Whittle Springs Hotel as well as the clients of her private service business; and

WHEREAS, she lived on Detroit Avenue, 15th Street, and Lilly Avenue before building her home on Presnell Lane in East Knox County in 1962, where she continues to live; and

WHEREAS, she still vividly remembers her walks across the frozen Tennessee River; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mrs. Blackwell has been a faithful member of Sentertown Baptist Church for forty-two years; and

WHEREAS, she has been blessed with a first-hand view of history, living through and experiencing the advent of the automobile, the birth of flight, World War I, the Great Depression, the invention of the television, World War II, the Cold War, the computer age, the abolition of segregation, man's first step on the moon, the civil rights movement, and the beginning of the information age; and

WHEREAS, as Mrs. Blackwell approaches her 96th year, she is still an active and productive member of society and has maintained an active faith, a strong mind, a stout heart, a wonderful sense of humor, and a dignity born of self-respect; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join in celebrating the 95th birthday of Kathryn Blackwell, honor and commend her for her outstanding life as a citizen of the "Volunteer State", and extend to her our best wishes for all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.